



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P O Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

27488 7590 11/25/2008
MERCHANT & GOULD (MICROSOFT)
P.O. BOX 2903
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903

EXAMINER

BASOM, BLAINE T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2173

DATE MAILED: 11/25/2008

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/607,374	06/30/2000	Anthony Chavez	14917.0245USU1/MS140744.0	8223

TITLE OF INVENTION: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING HELP CONTENTS FOR COMPONENTS OF A COMPUTER SYSTEM

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$0	\$0	\$1510	02/25/2009

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or Fax **(571) 273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

27488 7590 11/25/2008
MERCHANT & GOULD (MICROSOFT)
P.O. BOX 2903
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)

(Signature)

(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/607,374	06/30/2000	Anthony Chavez	14917.0245USU1/MS140744.0	8223

TITLE OF INVENTION: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING HELP CONTENTS FOR COMPONENTS OF A COMPUTER SYSTEM

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$0	\$0	\$1510	02/25/2009
EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS				
BASOM, BLAINE T	2173	715-714000				

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).
 Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
 "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list
(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,
(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY AND STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): Individual Corporation or other private group entity Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- Issue Fee
- Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- Advance Order - # of Copies _____

- A check is enclosed.
- Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments or the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P O Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/607,374	06/30/2000	Anthony Chavez	14917.0245USU1/MS140744.0	8223
27488	7590	11/25/2008	EXAMINER	
MERCHANT & GOULD (MICROSOFT)		BASOM, BLAINE T		
P.O. BOX 2903		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903		2173		DATE MAILED: 11/25/2008

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)

(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 262 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 262 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability	Application No. 09/607,374 Examiner Blaine Basom	Applicant(s) CHAVEZ ET AL. Art Unit 2173
-------------------------------	---	---

-- **The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to Applicant's Amendments, received on April 23, 2008.

2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 40,43-50,53-58 and 60.

3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of the:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- 1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
- 4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
- 5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- 7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- 8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- 9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with D. Kent Stier on August 13, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. In claim 40, at lines 20-25, please change the phrase "the unified taxonomy structure being common to and inclusive of at least one of the following: the help topics provided by the different vendors, and a first level of categories and a second level of categories in the unified taxonomy structure, wherein the first level of categories and the second level of categories in the unified taxonomy structure are at least one of the following: predefined, static, and used by all the different vendors of software components installed on the computer" to --the unified taxonomy structure being common to and inclusive of the help topics provided by the different vendors, and a first level of categories and a second level of categories in the unified taxonomy structure being predefined, static, and used by all the different vendors of software components installed on the computer--.
2. In claim 40, at line 42, please remove the phase "perform at least one of the following:".
3. In claim 43, at line 1, please change "claim 42" to --claim 40--.
4. In claim 50, at lines 20-25, please change the phrase "the unified taxonomy structure being common to and inclusive of at least one of the following: the help topics provided by the

different vendors, and a first level of categories and a second level of categories in the unified taxonomy structure, wherein the first level of categories and the second level of categories in the unified taxonomy structure are at least one of the following: predefined, static, and used by all the different vendors of software components installed on the computer" to --the unified taxonomy structure being common to and inclusive of the help topics provided by the different vendors, and a first level of categories and a second level of categories in the unified taxonomy structure being predefined, static, and used by all the different vendors of software components installed on the computer--.

5. In claim 50, at line 44, please remove the phrase "perform at least one of the following:".
6. In claim 53, at line 1, please change "claim 52" to --claim 50--.
7. In claim 60, at lines 20-25, please change the phrase "the unified taxonomy structure being common to and inclusive of at least one of the following: the help topics provided by the different vendors, and a first level of categories and a second level of categories in the unified taxonomy structure, wherein the first level of categories and the second level of categories in the unified taxonomy structure are at least one of the following: predefined, static, and used by all the different vendors of software components installed on the computer" to --the unified taxonomy structure being common to and inclusive of the help topics provided by the different vendors, and a first level of categories and a second level of categories in the unified taxonomy structure being predefined, static, and used by all the different vendors of software components installed on the computer--.
8. In claim 60, at line 57, please remove the phrase "perform at least one of the following:".

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 40, 43-50, 53-58, and 60 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent claims 40, 50, and 60, the prior art (e.g. U.S. Patent No. 5,631,361 to Hickman et al., "Managing On-Line Help in a Networked Multi-Platform Environment" by Irwin et al.) teaches providing a common graphical user interface for organizing and accessing the help files for a plurality of software and hardware components installed on a computer system. That is, like required by claims 40, 50, and 60, the prior art teaches: a help content store for storing help contents for help topics, the help content store having a plurality of separate vendor folders corresponding to different vendors of software components installed on the computer and hardware components installed on the computer, each vendor folder containing help contents of respective help topics provided by a corresponding vendor, the help contents usable by a unified taxonomy structure of help categories and help topics, wherein a first vendor corresponds to a first component selected from the plurality of different hardware and software components and a second vendor corresponds to a second component selected from the plurality of different hardware and software components, the first vendor and the second vendor being included in the different vendors; a help database containing mapping data for mapping the help topics from the different vendors into the unified taxonomy structure of help categories and help topics, the unified taxonomy structure being common to and inclusive of the help topics provided by the different vendors, and a first level of categories and a second level of categories in the unified taxonomy structure being predefined, static, and used by all the different vendors of software components installed on the computer and hardware

components installed on the computer, the mapping data including data for each help topic for identifying a node position of the help topic in the unified taxonomy structure and a location of a corresponding help content of the help topic in the help content store; and a help application for providing a user interface for presenting the help topics to a user, the help application being programmed to interactively display the unified taxonomy structure using mapping data in the help database and help contents in the content store, including displaying help categories and help topics in the unified taxonomy structure in response to user selections, retrieving help contents of a user-selected help topic, and displaying the help content of the user-selected help topic. Moreover, the prior art (e.g. U.S. Patent No. 5,631,361 to Hickman et al.) teaches including a help content update module for updating help contents in the content store and the mapping data in the help database based on update packets received from the vendors. The prior art (e.g. U.S. Patent No. 5,825,356 to Habib et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,999,990 to Sullivan et al.) further teaches associating scripts with help topics, and scripts that collect system operation information and upload the system operation information. However, the prior art does not teach or suggest applying such scripts that collect and upload system operation information within an integrated help utility for a plurality of software and hardware components installed on a computer, like claimed. That is, the prior art does not teach or suggest a script library for storing a plurality of script objects used in the help contents of help topics stored in a help content store, the help content store comprising a plurality of different vendor folders each comprising help contents provided by a corresponding vendor, and wherein the script library objects are operative to collect system operation information and upload the system operation information to a vendor associated with the script library objects; and an authorization store for storing information

identifying which of the help contents are authorized to access the script library objects, as is required by claims 40, 50, and 60.

Claims 43-49 each depend from claim 40, and thereby include all of the limitations of claim 40. Accordingly, claims 43-49 are considered allowable for the reasons by which claim 40 is allowed. Similarly, claims 53-58 each depend from claim 50, and include all of the limitations of claim 50, and are therefore considered allowable for the reasons by which claim 50 is allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Blaine Basom whose telephone number is (571)272-4044. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dennis Chow can be reached on (571)272-7767. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would

Art Unit: 2173

like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/BTB/

8/13/2008

/DENNIS-DOON CHOW/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2173